

208 WQM Amendment Checklist

Designated Planning Agency: Central Arizona Governments (CAG)

Name of Amendment: *CAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment Final Draft January 30, 2019 for the Town of Queen Creek, Designated Management Agency (DMA), Expansion of Sewer Service Area.*

Amendment Summary: This amendment addresses the Town of Queen Creek's request to expand its DMA sewer service area beyond the current CAG DMA boundary into unincorporated Pinal County for Township 1S, R8E, Sections 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 and portions of Sections 31, 32, 33 and 34. The town of Queen Creek (Town) currently has DMA status within Maricopa (32.7 miles) and Pinal (9.2 miles) Counties. The proposed Pinal County service area would include approximately 9.7 square miles, mostly undeveloped State Lands (6.7 miles), 1.5 miles of agricultural land and the rest private properties (1.5 miles) in Pinal County. The private properties are treating wastewater through septic systems. Queen Creek will collect and treat wastewater from the Arizona State Lands Department (ASLD) portion once it has been developed into the Town's current collection system.

The Town processes all its collected wastewater at the Greenfield Water Reclamation Plant (GWRP) located in the town of Gilbert (Gilbert) in Maricopa County. The Town has entered into an IGA with Gilbert and the city of Mesa (Mesa) to purchase capacity at the existing GWRP in order to serve the expanded area in Pinal County. Queen Creek, along with Gilbert and Mesa, are the joint owners of the plant which is located on Greenfield Road, north of Queen Creek Road. Including the current DMA boundary, the MAG DMA boundary and the proposed CAG DMA boundary could range from 7.0 to 7.5 MGD capacity. At buildout, the Town will own 8.0 MGD of the GWRP's total capacity. If future wastewater flows for the Town would increase beyond the allotted capacity of Queen Creek in the GWRP capacity, a 208 amendment would be required by CAG.

Disposal Option(s): The GWRP produces Class A+ reclaimed water which is used for irrigation and recharge by Gilbert and Mesa. As the plant's flow capacity increases, reuse will become an effluent disposal option for the Town. The plant also has an AZPDES permit to discharge treated wastewater.

If AZPDES, name of receiving water: Emergency discharge to the East Maricopa Floodway in Maricopa County. **Is receiving water on 303(d) List:** No

<i>Review Criteria</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Authority	The Town attorneys for Queen Creek have submitted a self-certification letter that asserts that the town of Queen Creek has

	the appropriate legal authority to manage the DMA for Pinal County only. See Appendix E in the 208 Plan.
20-year Needs	<p>This amendment request is for the expansion of the Town of Queen Creek's (Town) current CAG DMA boundary located in Pinal County. The DMA expansion and amendment supercedes the previous 2007 208 amendment which established the original DMA boundary. The lands within the current expansion are mostly of the Arizona State Lands Department (ASLD); undeveloped desert. ASLD manages seventy percent of the land in the proposed DMA expansion. The rest of the proposed area is privately held individual residences served by septic systems. According to the Town's Sewer Master Plan and the General Plan, the residential land use will range from one unit per acre to eight units per acre to twenty-five units (apartment homes) per acre. Part of the expanded sewer service area in Pinal County consists of land contiguous to the Town's current municipal boundaries in Maricopa County and existing population numbers of 4,114 to a 2040 projection of 4,851 people. Queen Creek's Sewer Code Section 16-4-11 requires connection to the collection system when sewer service becomes available to the property.</p> <p>The Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) signed by the communities of Queen Creek, Gilbert and Mesa stipulates ownership as a function of purchased plant capacity. The IGA allows for any of the owners to purchase additional capacity in the future when the plant is expanded. Queen Creek has committed to purchase 4.0 MGD in the GWRP Phase II plant capacity and up to 8.0 MGD of the ultimate plant capacity. All three communities have industrial pre-treatment ordinances to regulate commercial, institutional and industrial sources.</p>
Regulations	The required permits for the GWRP are the following: 1) an Aquifer Protection Permit (APP), 2) an Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) permit for the emergency point source discharge to the East Maricopa Floodway 3) a Reclaimed Water Reuse Permit (Town of Gilbert has applied for this permit); and 4) recharge permit from the Arizona Department of Water Resources.
Construction	Construction of the GWRP facilities with an initial 16.0 MGD capacity was completed in April 2007. The next stage of construction will start with the expansion to 6.0 MGD in the next 5-10 years. Construction of the Greenfield plant to the final build-out capacity is unknown at this time.

Financing	The Town's 2016 Sewer Master Plan used the connection method to determine future wastewater flows. The 2016 Sewer Master Plan examined historic data to determine the mixture of residential and commercial wastewater up to the year 2050. The Town of Queen Creek (Town) Sewer Master Plan exists to prioritize the improvement projects identified and to develop project cost estimates that can be used for capital improvement plan budget planning and development of future rates and fees.
Implementation	The proposed DMA boundary will allow the Town to extend sewer service, reduce or eliminate point or non-point sources of pollution. The expansion of the sewer service area will minimize or reduce the impact of agricultural use of the land on groundwater. The conveyance of wastewater generated in the expanded sewer service area will help to minimize potential degradation of groundwater that multiple small treatment plants in the area could present.
Public Participation	Public Meeting: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 Environmental Planning Committee: December 12, 2018 Management Committee: January 10, 2019 Regional Council: January 30, 2019 WQMWG Meeting: February 12, 2019 ADEQ Certification letter: